Construction Advisory

CA 2006-05

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BJO:JKG

Stabilizing 4' x 5' Temporary Portable Signs

Some offices are experiencing problems with the new temporary portable 4' x 5' sign, designated as WZ-74, blowing over or the uprights twisting due to the wind. The sign is configured with a 4' x 5' x ½" plywood substrate, with a 7' bottom height mounted on two 2 lb per ft U-channel uprights. The following are a couple of ways to stabilize the sign stand:

Bolt a cross member to the front of the two U-channel uprights, approximately 2" above the rectangle shaped stub. The length of the cross member must cover the entire width of each upright. Use one of the following cross member materials:

Perforated square steel tubing (1" minimum)

- Solid square tubing (1" minimum)
- ➤ Angle iron (1½" x 1½" x ¼" [minimum])
- Flat steel plate (1½" x ¼" [minimum])

Drape one to two sand bags over the cross member. Each sand bag should weigh approximately 35 lbs.

The FHWA WZ-74 acceptance letter permits the above procedure. This procedure will keep the sign stand in the stubs.

The second way is to keep the feet parallel to each other and weigh them down with up to 12 sand bags.

It is the contractor's responsibility to maintain the signs. This does not require a change to the contract

specifications; therefore, no extra cost will be paid to the contractor for the above.

Please share this information with consultants and local agencies in your area.